(b) On the basis of the various suggestions made by different States including Maharashtra, several recommendations were made by the Conference to attend to the problems being faced in the development of the Power Sector in the country, including Maharashtra. The main recommendations related to measures for ensuring a capacity addition of about 38,000 MW in the 8th Plan, improving the management and financial performance of State Electricity Boards, expeditious clearance of 8th Plan projects from environmental and forest angles, implementation of a programme for energy conservation, encouragement to private sector participation in the generaton of power, a greater role for renewable sources of energy, setting up of a National Grid, and greater emphasis on gas based projects.

Government have initiated action on the recommendations made at the Conference.

Guidelines for transporting processing and marketing of Natural Gas

1530. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 74 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1989 and state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been prepared relating to transporting, processing and marketing of natural gas; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Appropriation instructions are issued wherever necessary from time to time in regard to transporting, processing and marketing of natural gas.

Barauni Oil Refinery

1531. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Barauni Oil Refinery has presently been operating at below capacity due to inadequate crude availability from the Assam Oil fields;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not providing facilities to process the imported crude;

(c) whether any feasibility report was prepared for increasing the capacity of Barauni Refinery; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The crude oil production from the North-Eastern sector is expected to increase in future and the Barauni Refinery is expected to receive adequate crude for processing. In view of this, putting up of facilities for processing of imported crude at Barauni was not considered.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It was not considered necessary to expand the capacity of Barauni Refinery taking into account the availability of crude oil.

Allotment of New LPG Connection in the Country

1532. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new customers were provided LPG connections in the country during the last three years and the number of customers anticipated to be allotted new LPG connections in the current year; and

(b) how many new customers are anticipated to be provided with LPG connections in the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The customer enrolment during the last 3 years is given below:

1986-87 . .	. 17.08 lakhs
1987-88 . .	. 14.37 lakhs
1988-89 . .	. 11.56 lakhs
1989-90 . .	. 10.00 lakhs (proposed)